

Rajnath Singh addresses top naval commanders onboard INS Vikrant

ONBOARD INS VIKRANT, Mar 6:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday reviewed India's maritime security challenges with the top naval commanders onboard the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in the Arabian Sea, amid China's burgeoning military posturing in the Indian Ocean region.

As the 43,000-tonne steel behemoth, accompanied by a fleet of over 20 frontline frigates, destroyers and submarines, sailed across the high seas, the defence minister, sitting inside the Main Briefing Room of the nearly 262-metre long and 59-metre tall ship, complimented the naval commanders for fiercely protecting India's maritime interests in the strategic waters.

Before addressing the commanders at the biannual naval conference, Singh, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and other naval commanders witnessed a mega wargame involving Vikrant, the accompanying ships and almost all attack aircraft including MiG-29K deck-based jets.

"It is a historic occasion," Admiral Kumar said.

The Chief of Naval Staff said all policy decisions, acquisition-related matters and force planning are being discussed at the commanders' conference.

"The aim of the conference is to review what are the challenges, where we stand, what are the gaps and how we can take things forward," he told reporters.

The assets which were deployed during Monday's drills included warships from the Eastern as well as Western fleets.

Officials said the wargame marked the end of the three-month-long Tropex exercise, billed as the largest ever such drill carried out by the Navy, that was launched in December to test the force's overall operational capa-

bility in view of the evolving regional security matrix.

Two prototypes of the naval variant of indigenously-built Light Combat Aircraft also demonstrated their swift landing on the deck of the sprawling aircraft carrier that was commissioned into the Navy by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September last.

The decision to hold the first phase of the commanders' conference onboard INS Vikrant is a

"pretty significant move," a top military official said hinting that it is a power projection in the face of Chinese assertiveness.

Built at a cost of around Rs 23,000 crore, INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile systems.

It has the capacity to hold 30 fighter jets and helicopters.

At the commissioning ceremony of the vessel, Prime Minister Modi called it a "floating city" and said that it is a

reflection of India becoming self-reliant in defence.

The flight deck of the carrier is equal to almost two football grounds, said an official.

The official said the conference will carry its own significance and relevance in view of the prevailing geostrategic situation in the region.

The second day's conference will take place in Goa.

The next phase of the conference will be held in Delhi a few days later.

The conference serves as a platform for naval commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level as well as interact with senior Government functionaries under an institutionalised framework.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari will also interact with the naval commanders to address the convergence of the three services vis-a-vis a common operational environment.(PTI)

Centre authorises states to conduct Aadhaar authentication of prisoners

NEW DELHI, Mar 6:

The Centre has authorised state governments to carry out Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates on a voluntary basis so that they will be able to get health care, skilling, vocational training, interview with relatives and legal aid, among other services.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the decision has been taken after it was authorised under Rule 5 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020, for the targeted delivery of financial and other

subsidies, benefits and services.

The Aadhaar authentication will be carried out on the prison inmates on a voluntary basis using Yes/No authentication facility for delivery of various benefits or facilities to which they are entitled, such as correctional reform measures, health, skilling, vocational training, interview with relatives, legal aid, etc, the notification said.

The prison authorities of the states and Union Territory administrations shall adhere to the guidelines with respect to the use of Aadhaar authentication as laid down by the Central Government, the notification said. (PTI)

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06.03.2023	14.03.2023	28.03.2023/ 15:00 Hrs.
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Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in . Above tender document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 13.03.2023 to 10.04.2023 upto 11.30 hrs and for submission from 27.03.2023 to 10.04.2023 upto 11.30 hrs. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the notice board of the above office.
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